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DESIGNATION OF SOUTH SHORE NO DISCHARGE AREA CELEBRATED

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs' (EOEA) Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Director Susan Snow-Cotter, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Deputy Administrator Ira Leighton, Congressman William Delahunt, Representatives Thomas O'Brien and Vinny deMacedo and local officials celebrated the designation of Plymouth, Duxbury, and Kingston Bays and adjacent coastal waters as No Discharge Areas (NDA). An NDA is a designated body of water in which the discharge of all boat sewage is prohibited. The total area of the proposed NDA is 63 square miles and will be the second largest in the Commonwealth. Declaring these coastal waters an NDA is another example of the region's commitment to improve wastewater management and enhance protection of coastal resources.

Discharged boat sewage can contain pathogens, nutrients, and chemical products, which can negatively affect aquatic life or degrade water quality. By prohibiting boat sewage discharge, NDAs can reduce the risk of human illness, thus making it safer to swim, boat, fish, and eat shellfish from protected waters. Also, harmful algae growth that occurs as a result of the high level of nutrients in sewage discharge can be prevented. Reduction of these harmful algae growths allows for higher water quality and increases habitat value.

"This is great example of town, state and federal agencies working together to ensure further protection of our coast," said Snow-Cotter. "I am pleased with this accomplishment and I look forward to expanding these efforts to other areas in the future."

"This is a great day for ensuring cleaner and healthier coastal waters in Massachusetts," said Robert W. Varney, regional administrator of EPA's New England Office. "Not only will this new No Discharge Area protect Massachusetts' coastline from untreated waste

from marine activities, it will also ensure that future generations of whale watchers and fishermen will be able to continue practicing our maritime traditions.”

Under the Clean Water Act, a body of water can become an NDA if a community believes that the waters are ecologically and recreationally important enough to deserve further protection than that already provided by current Federal and State laws. Currently Plymouth Bay supports a variety of uses including aquaculture, commercial and recreational shellfishing, tourism, boating, sailing, kayaking, and numerous bathing beaches. In Massachusetts, the Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) works closely with communities and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish NDAs.

Rep. deMacedo (R-Plymouth) who attended the event said, “I am pleased to see that we are being proactive in protecting the vital resources that the Plymouth Bay area has to offer. Protecting these resources, which have made Plymouth a desirable spot for over 380 years, will allow more people to come visit, live and work in the area while enjoying all that we have to offer.”

“Southeastern Massachusetts enjoys some of the most diverse natural resources in the Commonwealth. We are particularly blessed with pristine shorelines and thriving aquatic life,” noted O'Brien. "The collaborative effort to declare a No Discharge Area along the Plymouth, Duxbury, and Kingston Bays will ensure that our coastal waters remain safe for residents and guests, now and for generations to come.”

For more information on No Discharge Areas in New England please visit <http://www.epa.gov/region01/eco/nodiscrg/index.html>.

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